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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/902,194 | 07/10/2001 | Mitsuhiro Fukatsu | 1232-4736 | 8300 |
| 27123 | 7590 | 11/17/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101 | | | CABRERA, ZOILA E | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2125 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/902,194

Applicant(s)

FUKATSU ET AL.

Examiner

Zoila E. Cabrera

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 1, 3-16, 18-20, 22, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Embutsu et al. (US 5,699,525)** in view of **Suzuki et al. (US 6,633,795)**.

Embutsu discloses an environmental information system, method and computer readable medium comprising:

Regarding claims 1, 18 and 22,

- a product constitution information storage section for storing product constitution information including information on parts and/or raw materials constituting each of products (Fig. 6, elements 37 or 39); and integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information with respect to each product on the basis of the product constitution information and the environmental information (Col. 7, lines 41-52; Fig. 6, elements 70, 37, 39; Fig. 8, i.e., steel, aluminum, glass, plastics, chloro-fluorocarbon).

As for claims 3 and 6,

- user information storage means for storing user information, wherein said integrated environmental information forming means forms integrated environmental information on the basis of the user information (Col. 3, lines 10-14; Col. 6, lines 24-29).

As for claims 4, 19 and 23

- a product constitution information storage section for storing product constitution information including information on raw materials constituting each of products (Col. 6, lines 23-31; Col. 7, lines 20-23, i.e., the model f can be created from the knowledge of the component parts of each home electrical appliance and the materials of the parts); a raw material environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about the raw materials (Col. 6, lines 9-12, i.e., data is stored in correspondence to location information or geographic information); and integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information with respect to each product on the basis of the product constitution information and the environmental information about the raw materials (Col. 7, lines 41-52; Fig. 6, elements 70, 37, 39; Fig. 8, i.e., steel, aluminum, glass, plastics, chloro-fluorocarbon).

As for claims 5 and 15,

- the environmental information about the raw materials includes information about whether or not a chemical substance to be environmentally prohibited, **reduced** or controlled is contained (Fig. 8, steel, aluminum, glass, etc.).

As for claim 7,

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- a product environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about the products (Fig. 6, element 37 or 39), wherein said integrated environmental information forming section forms integrated environmental information with respect to each product on the basis of the environmental information about the raw materials and the product environmental information about the products (Fig. 6, geographic location A1-A3, Refrigerators, TV and Type; Col. 6, lines 9-12; Col. 7, lines 20-23; Col. 9, lines 12-18).

As for claims 8 and 16,

- the product environmental information includes at least one of power consumption, the amount of a metal consumed, the disassembly time, and the amount of ozone generated (Col. 9, lines 24, steel and aluminum are collected; Col. 5, lines 45-46, i.e. the type or kind of home electric appliances, the time of sale or date of consumption).

As for claims 9-10,

- said integrated environmental information forming means forms integrated environmental information with respect to each product by assigning one key information item to one product (Col. 6, lines 23-33, bar code);
- search means for searching the integrated environmental information (Col. 7, lines 41-48);

As for claims 11 and 13,

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- display means for displaying a result of a search through the integrated environmental information searched by said search means (Fig. 6, element 70; Col. 7, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 12, **Embutsu** further discloses,

- An environmental information system comprising: an environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about products (Fig. 6, elements 37 or 39); user information storage means for storing user information (Col. 3, lines 10-14; Col. 6, lines 24-29); and search means for searching the environmental information on the basis of the user information (Col. 7, lines 41-48).

As for claim 14,

- the environmental information about the products includes environmental information about raw materials constituting each product (Col. 6, lines 23-31; Col. 7, lines 20-23, i.e., the model f can be created from the knowledge of the component parts of each home electrical appliance and the materials of the parts).

Regarding claims 20 and 24, **Embutsu** discloses,

- A method and a computer readable medium for processing environmental information, comprising the steps of: storing user information (Col. 3, lines 10-14; Col. 6, lines 24-29); searching environmental information about products according to the user information and on the basis of a data base in which the

environmental information is stored (Col. 7, lines 41-48); and displaying a result of a search through the environmental information searched in said searching step (Fig. 6, element 70; Col. 7, lines 52-58).

However, **Embutsu** does not *specifically* disclose some limitations of independent claims 1, 4, 12, 18-20, 22-24. But **Suzuki** discloses such limitations as follows:

- an environmental information storage section for storing environmental information about each product, the parts and/or the raw materials (Col. 35, lines 21-40; Col. 9, lines 58 – Col. 10, line 4; Col. 2, lines 63 – Col. 3, lines 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the recycling system of **Embutsu** with the recycling system of **Suzuki** because it would provide an improved system for proper disposal processing or treatments of the discarded articles (**Suzuki**, Col. 2, lines 11-15).

4. Claims 17, 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Suzuki et al. (US 6,633,795)** in view of **Embutsu et al. (US 5,699,525)**.

Suzuki discloses, regarding claims 17, 21 and 25, a method, computer readable medium and an environmental information system for forming environmental data about products, said system and method comprising:

- environmental data forming means for forming environmental data about each product from design data (Col. 34, lines 53-55; Col. 35, lines 1-7; Col. 9, lines 58- Col. 10, line 4), ordering data based on the design data (Col. 13, lines 45-57), material data on the order-receiving side (Col. 14, lines 11-13; Fig. 14, elements

37, 62), hazardous chemical substance data originally input (Fig. 25, step 254), and user information (Col. 35, lines 57-67; Fig. 14).

However, **Suzuki** does not disclose, the added limitations to claims 17, 21 and 25.

However, **Embutsu** discloses such limitations as follows:

- integrated environmental information forming means for forming integrated environmental information with respect to each product on the basis of the product constitution information and the environmental information about the raw materials (Col. 7, lines 41-52; Fig. 6, elements 70, 37, 39; Fig. 8, i.e., steel, aluminum, glass, plastics, chloro-fluorocarbon).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the recycling system of **Suzuki** with the system of **Embutsu** because it would provide with an improved information management system for managing information on the type or kind and quantity of waste stacked in each of the depositories.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Embutsu** as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of **Katayanagi et al. (US 6,321,983)**.

Embutsu discloses the limitations of claim 1 above but fails to disclose, regarding Claim 2, said integrated environmental information forming section re-forms the integrated environmental information when one of the raw materials constituting one of the products is changed or when the number of parts or raw materials constituting the product is changed. However, **Katayanagi** discloses a recycling system wherein if the

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design of a part is changed, the design change data contains the data the part design was changed (Col. 8, lines 8-10). **Katayanagi** further discloses that if a part is replaced with a different type of part, this fact is included in the repair/maintenance history, and the post-recovery disposal method is also rewritten to indicate a new post-recovery disposal method for the part (Col. 8, lines 28-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of **Embutsu** with the system of **Katayanagi** because it would provide with an improved recycling system wherein changes or modifications to parts of a product are maintained in a history database so that information background of an individual product can be known (**Katayanagi**, Col. 8, lines 28-32; Col. 14, lines 28-30).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Zoila Cabrera, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST (every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by phone fail, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (703) 308-0538. Additionally, the fax phones for Art Unit 2125 are (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist at (703) 305-9600.



Zoila Cabrera
Patent Examiner
11/15/04